

# FASHION & SHOPPING

## Hot Shops

VANCOUVER'S GREATEST AND LATEST RETAILERS

PHOTOS: NEIL BARBISAN



### CASCA

Why in the world would you walk a mile in another person's shoes when you could walk in a pair personalized for your own two feet? Vancouver brand **Casca** seems poised to revolutionize the shoe industry with its debut Avro sneakers and 3-D-printed insoles. The custom FootB3D insoles are made specifically for your arch and foot measurements; they can be raised or lowered in the shoe cavity to guarantee the perfect fit and take less than two weeks to be manufactured and arrive in the mail. The Avro sneakers are available in either waterproof leather (ideal for Vancouver) or a highly breathable knit, and both models use Lift OS—Casca's own orthotic system. The end result is a shoe that looks good, feels good and offers the perfect amount of support. Check out the brand's sleek new flagship on Main Street, and see for yourself how three photographs of each foot can generate a 20,000-point 3-D model. Watch the 3-D printers in action and try on the timeless sneakers to discover what a perfect fit feels like. Yes, the future of footwear is already here, and it sure feels comfy. **4166 Main St., 604-873-1605. Ca.casca.com** SHERI RADFORD



### COS

Robson Street has welcomed the Lower Mainland's second **COS** store, adding cool, contemporary, carefully considered fashion to its retail lineup. The largest of the brand's Canadian boutiques, this two-storey beauty is noticeably bright and airy, boasting a dramatic central staircase and arched floor-to-ceiling windows that bathe the second floor in light. Stocked in want/need wardrobe staples (with fresh takes on classic pieces, like raincoats, sweater dresses, silk dresses and simple blouses), the full women's winter collection was, on our last visit, on full display, featuring cosy knits and luxe fabrics aplenty. There's also a men's section (think essential cashmere sweaters and minimalist shirts) and, for the first time in Vancouver, children's clothing. Our eye immediately caught the glittering jewelry display, with minimalist pieces made from recycled silver. There is something so effortless—and, indeed, essential—about Scandinavian style. **1070 Robson St., 778-783-5837. Cosstores.com** LYNDI BARRETT



### FAUX FLORAL

Time to toss all of your old notions about fake aside: this new flower shop offers a fresh take on faux floral design. Owner Leah Balderson sources the most beautiful artificial blooms—flowers made of silk with a natural-touch material application that look and feel just like the real thing—with an aim to encourage clients to keep stunning arrangements in their spaces every day of the year (and not just on special occasions). This beautiful Main Street boutique is full of no-water-required blooms, green-thumb-optional potted plants and have-to-have home accessories. Step up to the stem bar, where you can hand-select the perfect pulls (with the help of pro florists, who can help ensure you leave with a beauty bunch). **Faux Floral's** "seasonal swaps" program even lets you bring in your arrangement each season to swap in new stems to freshen up the look of your bouquet. Also on offer: floral styling for weddings, events, interior design and special projects. This is the beginning of a beautiful fauxmance. **3938 Main St., 604-828-5058. Fauxfloral.ca** NOA NICHOL



### GUCCI PIN

Just what is **Gucci Pin**? It's a series of ephemeral stores inspired by the pins seen on interactive digital maps—and the initiative has debuted in the Skybridge of **Holt Renfrew**, where a Gucci-personalized pin will appear on Google Maps. The Holt Renfrew Vancouver Gucci Pin Mickey Mouse (the exclusive pin location in Canada) is dedicated to the celebration of the Lunar New Year. For the occasion, Gucci creative director Alessandro Michele chose to pay homage to the Chinese Year of the Rat with a specially designed collection of items that feature **Walt Disney's** iconic character, playfully incorporated into ready-to-wear and diverse accessories, from shoes and bags to small leather goods and scarves. The key element in the collection is a new material: the Mini GG Supreme canvas with Mickey Mouse print, which is a beige-and-ebony fabric that features a vintage Mini GG pattern with Mr. Mouse himself playfully applied to it in varying scale. See you on the Skybridge, folks! **737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com** NOA NICHOL



### QALI HAIR EXTENSION STUDIO

When it comes to getting a fresh look for the new decade, changing up your hair is key—and no one knows this better than Janelle Bell, who fell in love with the luscious look of natural extensions while living in New Zealand. Back in Vancouver, she opened **Qali** with an aim to specialize in ethically sourced products and sustainable methods, including compostable towels, eco-friendly packaging and water-reducing showerheads. On the studio menu: semi-permanent Remy human-hair extensions promising natural-looking results with no braiding and no glue (and straightforward pricing, to boot). Commitment-phobe? Clip-in extensions are on offer as well, plus such standard salon services as colours, cuts and styling. Trust us, Ariana Grande was on to something when she said, "You like my hair? Gee thanks, just bought it." **101 - 236 Georgia St., 604-423-4408. Qali.com** VICKI DUONG

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